

public what I think is a very important issue that relates to our ability to control spending and provide a shared sacrifice in terms of our approach.

That came from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on June 28, 1984, which then Congressman Panetta was saying, yes, it is okay to put stuff on these bills. They are a good vehicle. This is the only way we can do it.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the Republican Party overloading some of the budget bills and trying to blackmail the President of the United States, I would say there are true philosophical differences. The Republican Party wants to reduce the size of Government. They want to end the micromanagement out of Washington. They want to give the middle class some tax relief.

Yes, we are using legislative vehicles to do that. Members of the minority party do not want that; I understand that. But perhaps if the President would just agree that we want to balance the budget in 7 years, perhaps we could scale back on all this stuff.

I think it is important to have the dialogue. I think it is important to have a debate, but, most importantly, let us put the American people first. Let us put their interests first and try to do the right thing.

THE VOTERS VOTED FOR CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mrs. THURMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, today during the debate I was not given an opportunity, because we only had about 20 minutes on each side, to kind of explain what I think is a very important part of this process and a concern that I have. It concerns specifically when I came into the House in 1992, with about 110 freshmen, both Democrats and Republicans. Actually, there are several of them sitting on the floor tonight.

Let me tell my colleagues, when I listened to the debate today, I was astonished about hearing what happened in 1980. Oh, we had 52 CRs, and this is what has happened over and over and over again. Well, my folks did not send me here because they wanted to see business done as usual. They said they wanted a change. They wanted a difference. They wanted Government to run efficiently and effectively and they wanted to see things happen.

Democrats and Republicans in 1993, this same date, November 14, 1993, all 13 appropriations bills had been signed into law.

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Do you know what? We had big fights. Do you know what we were able to do? We actually reduced discretionary spending. I think some of you remember that. We reduced discretionary spending. We came in under our caps. We cut 40 programs. We took

408 other programs, and we slashed them from the previous year's expenditures. We did that, and we still continued. 1994, every bill, one more time, was done again by September 30, signed into law, had gone to the President. Democrats and Republicans voted for it.

Now, I want to talk about what I see happening today. Let me tell you all what maybe some of you do not know. Do you know that the Agriculture Department is open? It is open today. Federal employees were not furloughed. They were not put under the same restraints. Farmers are going to be able to be taken care of, because this House had passed a bill, the Senate had passed a bill. They had a conference committee, which is the process. It is to take what the House and the Senate and look at the differences, reconcile them and then bring them back to each body for them to agree or disagree on. And we did that. We did the work. And it went to the President. It was signed into law. But let me tell you what has happened now on the other 12 bills.

Yes, some of them have been passed by the Senate and by the House. But what has happened is, in the conference committee, the conference committee, and I hate to be partisan, because when I came in here with my 110 new freshmen, we did not make it partisan. We sat down and got the work done. We decided what needed to be reconciled.

But now, for example, let me tell you what some of the issues are. The crime and judiciary programs are being delayed because Republican leaders insist on rewriting the 1994 community policing program. Okay. Rewrite it. Bring it back. You have the votes to pass it. But guess what is stopping it. Within their own Senate and House conferees on their side, they cannot reach a compromise. They cannot agree on how to do the policing program, one of the most popular programs that was done in the crime bill and was used by many of our communities.

Veterans and housing programs, something that every one of us stand on this floor and we talk about our veterans and what the sacrifices were. What is holding Veterans and Housing programs up? Want me to tell you? A bill that had riders that were 17 demands which would have weakened environmental laws. Okay?

Let me tell you what is so interesting about this, the House rejected the bill two times. They did not like the outcome. We passed the amendment, took the riders out. Did not like the outcome of it. Brought it back until they got the results. Sent it over to the Senate. The Senate said no. They brought it back to the House again. They cannot reconcile their differences between themselves so we have no spending bill so they are shut down.

Then we have the Interior appropriations bill that is being delayed. Why? Because there are some Members who want to give away American lands to

foreign mining interests. They cannot decide if they want to do that. So what has happened? We do not have an Interior bill.

The list goes on and on and on. We would not have to be doing what we are doing today and having the pressure put on if these bills had been done and signed. We would have had an opportunity to debate the other issues.

I think that is awful. But I have to tell you something, and I think that this is what is very interesting. First of all, let me suggest to you all, I called by district office, 21 new requests. I will come back here in about another hour because I have some other things that I want to thank the American people for doing, because I believe they are the reason why we have the difference.

Veterans and Housing programs are being delayed because Republicans have included 17 demands which would weaken environmental laws. The House has rejected this bill two times, yet Republicans don't get it.

The Interior appropriations bill is being delayed because some Members want literally to give away American lands to foreign mining interest.

All of these bills could now be law if only the excess baggage had been thrown overboard. For instance, while the rest of the Government is closing down, the Department of Agriculture is working. Why?

Because all sides were able to resolve their differences and put a fair bill on the President's desk and he signed it.

Some people are blaming the President for this action, but every school child knows that Congress makes law and the President executes them. If no bill has been passed, there is nothing to execute.

If you cannot pass the easiest of bills then you cannot direct the country.

The Republicans simply don't pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

VOTERS REJECT GOP AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss, and I am glad my colleague from Georgia talked about the concern of the American people because they hear a lot of different things from the different mikes on the floor. Oftentimes the frustration they have and some of us even in Congress do not know what to believe.

But let me just go over some of the poll results because I have never, as a Member of Congress or even in earlier life, serving many years in the legislature, responded to polls because I think